

FIND YOUR VOICE



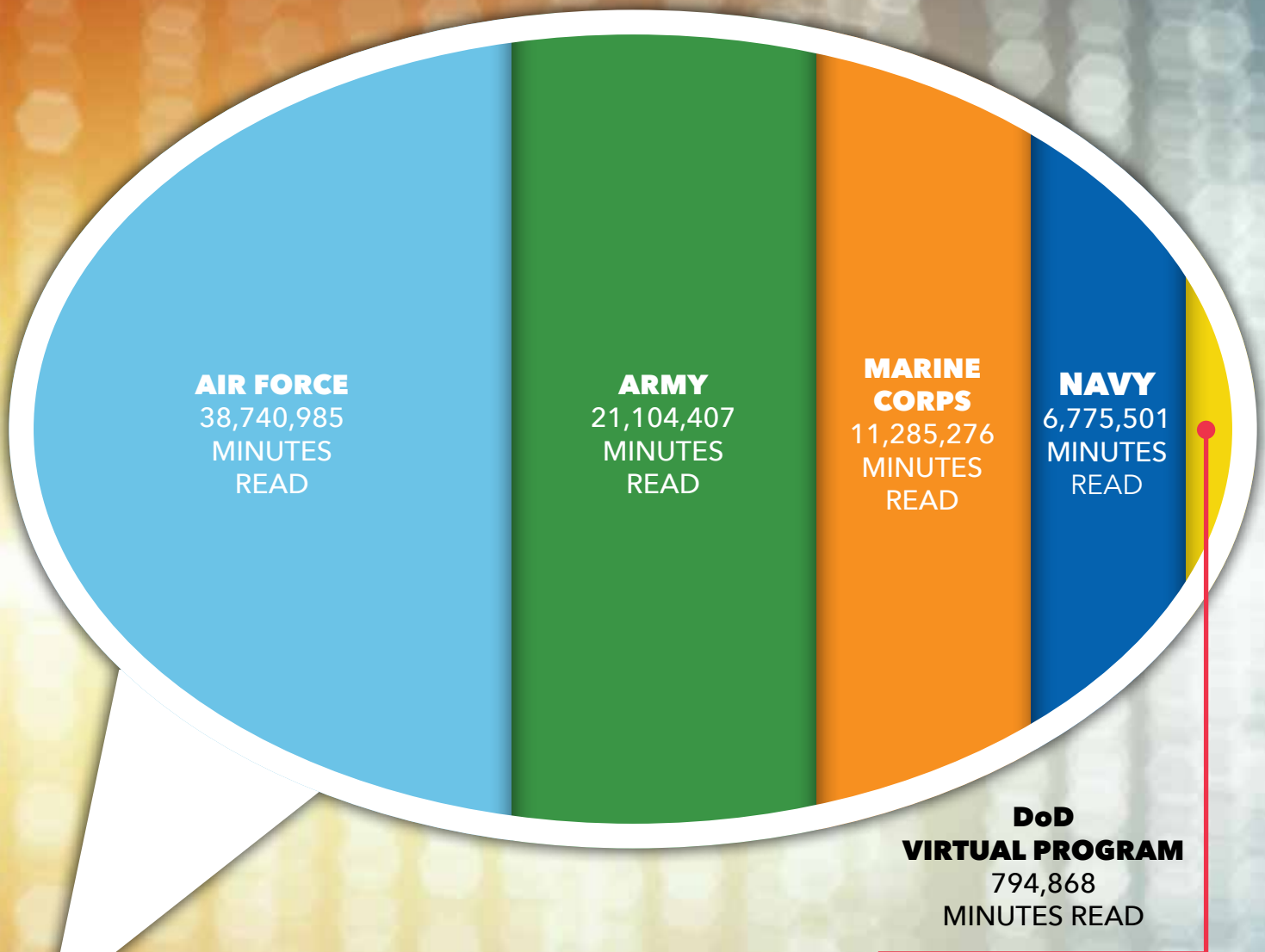
DOD MWR LIBRARIES
SUMMER READING PROGRAM
on Military Installations Worldwide



The Commanders Jazz Ensemble (from the U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West) performs at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library Fourth of July celebration in Yorba Linda, California. The Commanders are based on Travis Air Force Base, California.

BY THE NUMBERS

2023 DoD MWR Summer Reading Program Totals



78,701,037 MINUTES READ

Total minutes read is the equivalent of over 149 years.



Find Your Voice by Reading with Casey Memorial Library

By Samantha Harms, Sentinel Editor, Fort Cavazos, Texas

The Casey Memorial Library wanted its patrons to “Find Your Voice!” with this year’s Summer Reading Program.

During the summer months, Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Libraries host a range of free activities for children, teens and adults that encourage and support a love of reading.

“Summer reading programs are offered by nearly all libraries,” Rachel Bethel, public services librarian at Casey Memorial Library, explained. “But not all libraries have summer reading programs that are structured in a way that’s really compatible with Army families in particular. They are very specific (in that) you have to be here for certain things or you have to read particular books. There’s all kinds of different ways to do a summer reading program.

“But when we set ours up, it is initially set up by Army MWR Libraries so everybody is using the same theme but we’re allowed to tailor things like times and days and how many activities that we do according to our local population,” she continued. “So, we found that the structure we have works very well for local families because they’ve got multiple age groups. They can come in for multiple programs at the same time. They can read whatever they want.”

Participants simply needed to register online and then log how many minutes they read at any given time. The website tracked the total number of minutes read, which unlocks new badges and earns incentives. Reading books or listening to audiobooks at the participant’s reading level counts for the program.

“It’s pretty straightforward,” Bethel shared. “Just register (and) keep track of the amount of time you spend reading. It automatically pops up a little message on the screen telling you, ‘You’ve won a prize!’”

Top readers in each of the programs (pre-reader, children, teen and adult) were awarded prizes.

Additionally, each time a participant unlocks a badge for reading, completing activities or attending events, they earned tickets for the end-of-program drawing. Tickets were used to enter a drawing for a specific prize. All winners will be announced at the end-of-program party at 2 P.M. August 5. In addition, Casey Memorial Library hosted a variety of in-person programming. At 2 P.M. every Friday, the library had programs for pre-readers, children and teens. The programs lasted roughly an hour, and were filled with fun activities and crafts. Patrons also stopped by the children’s room each week to pick up new take-and-make crafts and activity sheets.

Adults participated in the monthly book club from 6 to 7 P.M. the last Wednesday of every month.

Also, at 2 P.M. every Wednesday, the library screened G or PG-rated movies. The movies, all of which were displayed on a poster outside of the children’s room, were chosen based on the main character finding their own voice. This is just a small way that this year’s theme can be found at the Casey Memorial Library.

“‘Find Your Voice!’ is one of the themes that can be taken in a multitude of ways,” Bethel expressed. “But the way that we’re choosing to interpret it is find the thing that makes you passionate enough to stand up and speak about it. Whether you’re teaching somebody else or standing up for somebody else, what is it that you’re interested in enough that you want to find your voice?”



ARMY MWR LIBRARY
SUMMER READING PROGRAM
on Military Installations Worldwide



Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida

Summer Reading Story Time engages youngsters by using stories and action on NAS Pensacola.



US Army Garrison Bavaria-Hohenfels, Germany

Librarian Jessica McGee, right, helps military mother, Tiffany Clark, log her family into the Summer Reading Program at Turnbull Memorial Library on USAG Bavaria-Hohenfels.



Osan Air Base, South Korea

Librarians on Osan AB bring stories to life with costumes.



AIR FORCE

Department of the Air Force Europe, Department of the Air Force Africa, and Alconbury Air Base, United Kingdom



Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho



Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany



Osan Air Base, South Korea



Department of the Air Force Europe, Department of the Air Force Africa, and Lakenheath Air Base, United Kingdom



Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota

Kunsan Air Base, South Korea



Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany



Fort Jackson, South Carolina

'There's no shushing in this library'

By Emily Hileman, Fort Jackson Public Affairs Office

The Fort Jackson Library hosted a plethora of events this summer that included Legos, microphones, cupcakes and board games to kick off the beginning of the Summer Reading Program.

"We're not just a warehouse of books," said Kim McDowell-Will, the Fort Jackson Library children's librarian. "We want it to be a loud space. We want it to be a space that's utilized and provide as much service as we can to our community."

McDowell-Will, who arrived earlier this year from Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, wants to show soldiers, parents, children, and retirees that the library isn't just a place to study, but it's a place to play, learn and engage for patrons of all ages.

"We had June and July planned out and we had a lot of different programs going on," said Katherine Livingston, Fort Jackson Library director. Some events, such as Matinee Movie Mondays and Tuesday's Lego Club were recurring, weekly events.

There were also some one-off programs like the cross-cultural potluck on June 14, which was co-hosted with Fort Jackson Army Community Services and the International Spouse Group.

The cross-cultural potluck was also an opportunity to learn how to enroll in English as a Second Language classes, obtain your driver's license, get answers to immigration or citizenship questions, and connect with other foreign-born spouses within the Fort Jackson community.

"Our activities are open to all ID card holders," Livingston said. "Anyone who can get on post and walk in our doors is welcome. So, soldiers and families, retirees, civilians and ID card holders can all come."

If you're a retiree who wants to keep your fine motor skills sharp by building with Legos or you're a soldier new to the area and haven't built your perfect Dungeons & Dragons guild, the library is the place for you.

Caitlin Pfeiffer and her three children took full advantage of the first week of events by attending the Lego Club, June 6.

"We just moved here," Pfeiffer said. "Which means we don't have our stuff right now, so it's nice to have someone else's toys."

Pete Miller, a retired staff sergeant and self-proclaimed dungeon master extraordinaire dropped in to re-hone his dungeon master skills and to get back into the game.

"I haven't played since the second edition of D&D, so don't be intimidated," he said. "My goal is just to make it fun. We will all get through it together."

"'Find Your Voice!' was our theme this year," McDowell-Will said. "It was about finding your voice and expressing that outwardly... we just want to say that there's no shushing in this library."



◀ At the Thomas Lee Hall (Post) Library Lego Club, Ryley Pfeiffer works on building a house.



Pete Miller, Bryant Miller and Eric Will work together as Dungeon Master Micah Barnhart leads them through a one-shot Dungeons & Dragons campaign. Game Club is for adults and children of all ages and is held every other Saturday at the library.

Lillia Anderson and her father Bart play Dinosaur Tea Party, a featured game during Game Club. ▶

Joint Multinational Readiness Center,
U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria, Germany

Hohenfels library combats 'summer gap' with reading program

By Bryan Gatchell, U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria

Turnbull Memorial Library held a party to begin its annual summer reading program by blocking off the street in front of its building so children could scrape colorful chalk designs into the asphalt while others made bubble wands and breathed life into shimmering orbs of soap.

The event, largely aimed at attracting families, is part of an Army-wide program to keep children reading and learning over the summer, a season when American children, away from structured education, slip academically.

Jessica McGee, the librarian for the Hohenfels community, said the program provides children scholastic benefits.

"It combats summer gap—that's the importance of summer reading," said McGee. "That and the enjoyment in reading."

While outside children blew bubbles and drew chalk art, inside families painted rocks with faces and other designs. The library staff would later use these rocks in a friendship garden.

McGee also reminded parents and children that logging reading time is not limited to being at home. Participants can log the hours they read on vacation, while driving and listening to audio books, while reading to their children before they go to sleep and more.

The summer reading program takes place across the garrison, both at the communities at Grafenwoehr and Vilseck and at Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

◀ Sandra Friend, right, library technician at Turnbull Memorial Library, helps children create bubble wands on USAG Bavaria.



Makenzie Clark colors a pebble as part of the kick-off ceremony for the 2023 Summer Reading Program at Turnbull Memorial Library on USAG Bavaria.



Amelia Patton blows bubbles during the kick-off ceremony for the 2023 Summer Reading Program at Turnbull Memorial Library. ▶



MARINE CORPS

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan

Participants fold paper during an origami-making event hosted by the Cultural Adaptations program at the Marine Corps Community Services library on MCAS Iwakuni.



Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona



▲ At day's end, Marine friends take a break by participating in the summer reading program, "Printmaking with Legos" on MCAS Yuma.



STORYTELLER
by Joshua Mongeship Powis-Steckley
for IREAD® Summer Reading 2023

Young patrons examine insects and plants during the program "Microscopes and Microbe Coasters" ► on MCAS Yuma.



Naval Station Rota, Spain

Summer Reading Program Ends with a Dazzling Circus Performance

By Courtney Pollock, Naval Station Rota, Spain

Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota's summer reading program came to a close in a dazzling performance of circus tricks, skills and theatrics at the Rota Library, August 8, 2023. More than 45 friends and family showed up to cheer on the young performers.

The annual summer reading program kicked off mid-June with the theme of "Find Your Voice!" This year, over 224 readers—from children to adults—signed up to read and log minutes. For the weekly story time event, Head Librarian Agar Fernandez-Palomero and staff wanted to come up with a fun and creative twist to this year's theme. The team decided to incorporate a theatrical element and had Jose Maria Franco Rodriguez come to the weekly story time to teach circus skills and stage presence.

Franco Rodriguez, known as "Franco" to the children, taught the children a series of circus skills from juggling and spinning plates to tightrope walking and balance beam. These circus practices drew over 20 children each week. The kids arrived excited to practice and learn new skills.



"It was just all the people that I trained with that were very helpful," said Daniel K., 9 years old, on what he enjoyed about the weekly session. "They helped me a lot and I'm just so glad to be here."

Franco Rodriguez said the weekly sessions consisted of two-way instruction where he learned from the children as well.

"It was really nice to work with the kids because they not only learn but they also give creative ideas, new tricks, and show up each day ready to learn," he said.

By giving the children space to learn and be creative, they were able to grow and develop confidence throughout the summer. This all worked to create a wonderful and fun performance for family and friends.

"I think it was fun when we all did the performance together," explained Lilliana N., 11 years old. "Everyone was having fun collaborating together!"

According to the staff at Rota Library, the response from parents and children has been overwhelmingly positive.

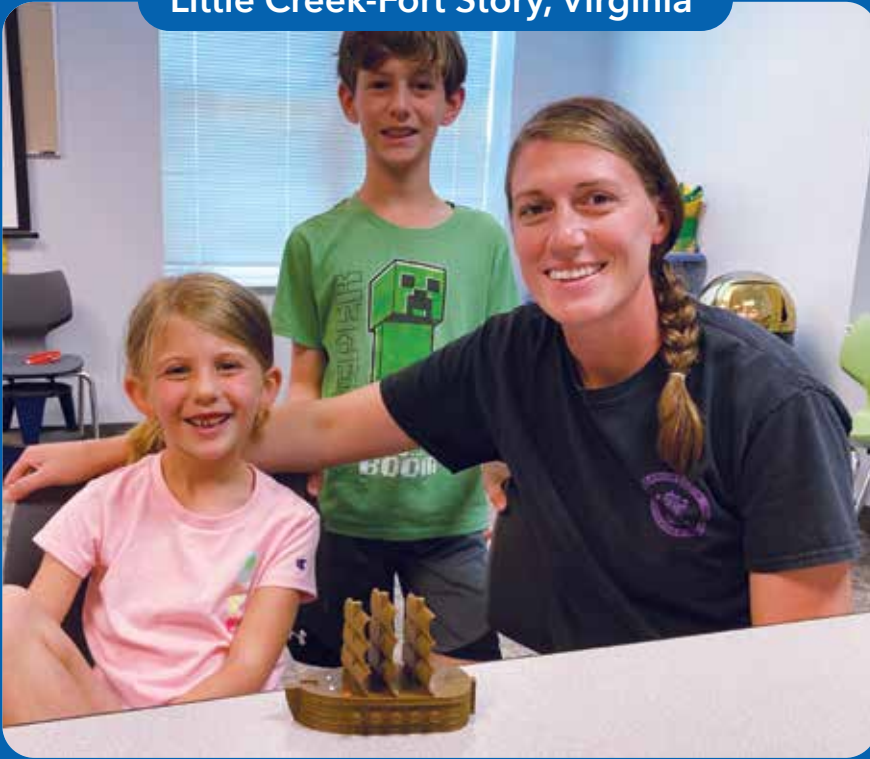
"The parents loved it and the children seemed to have lots of fun," said Janell Selvera, recreation aide at the library. "The kids put in a lot of effort during the summer and the performance was a success!"



Naval Submarine Base New London, Connecticut



Joint Expeditionary Base
Little Creek-Fort Story, Virginia



Guantanamo Bay
Naval Base, Cuba



Commander Fleet
Activities Yokosuka, Japan



Naval Support Activity, Bahrain



Joint Base
Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii



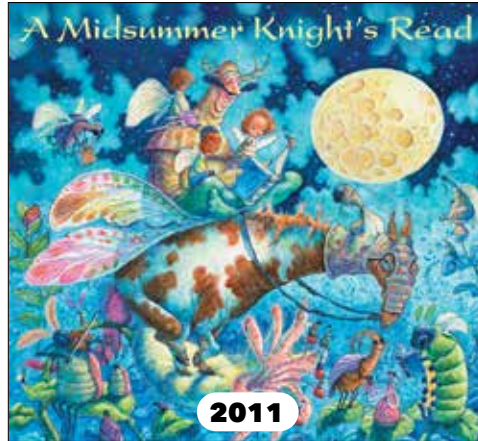
DoD MWR Libraries Summer Reading Posters



2010

Voyage to Book Island

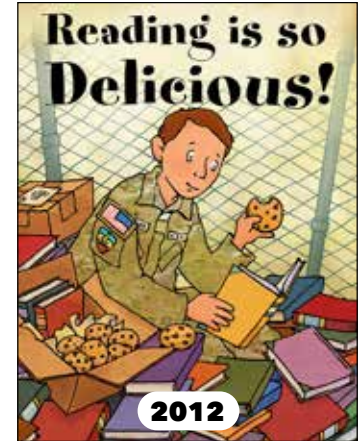
Oceans, vacations, treasure hunts
Featured artist: Kevin Luthardt



2011

A Midsummer Knight's Read

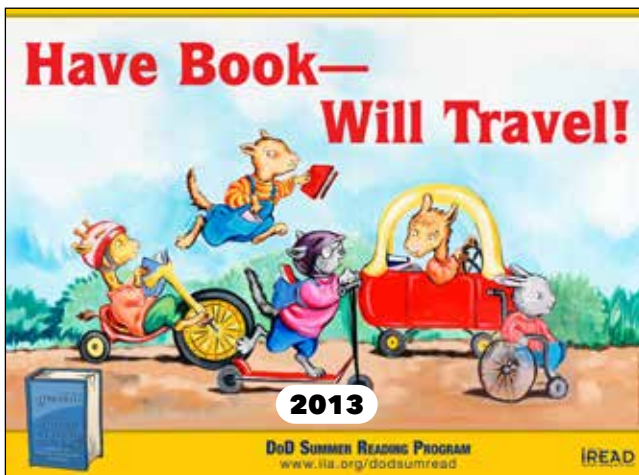
Medieval times and fantasy
Featured artist: David Catrow



2012

Reading is so Delicious!

Food, eating right, exercise
Featured artist: Patrick Girouard



2013

Have Book—Will Travel!

Travel, types of transportation, geography
Featured artist: Anna Dewdney



2014

Paws to Read!

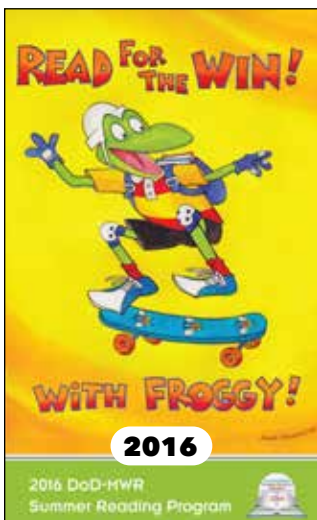
Pets and other animals
Featured artist: Tad Hills



2015

Read to the Rhythm

Music and dance
Featured artist: Don Tate



2016

Read for the Win!

Sports, the Olympics, achievement
Featured artist: Frank Remkiewicz



2017

Reading by Design

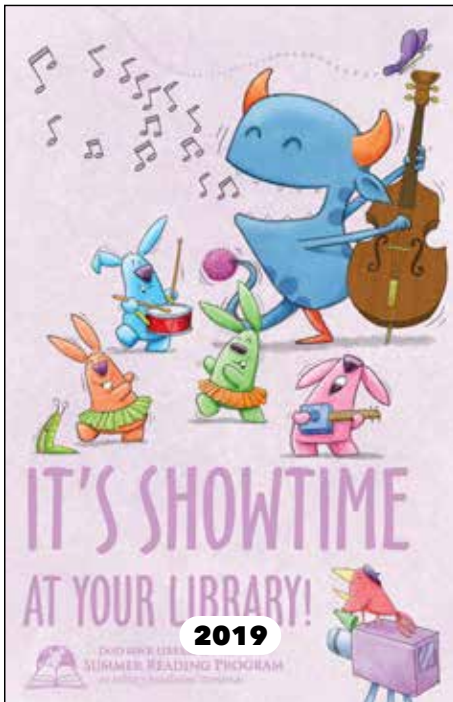
Technology, engineering, design, STEAM
Featured artist: Nick Dragotta



2018

Reading Takes You Everywhere!

Exploration, discovery, adventure
Featured artist: Terri Murphy



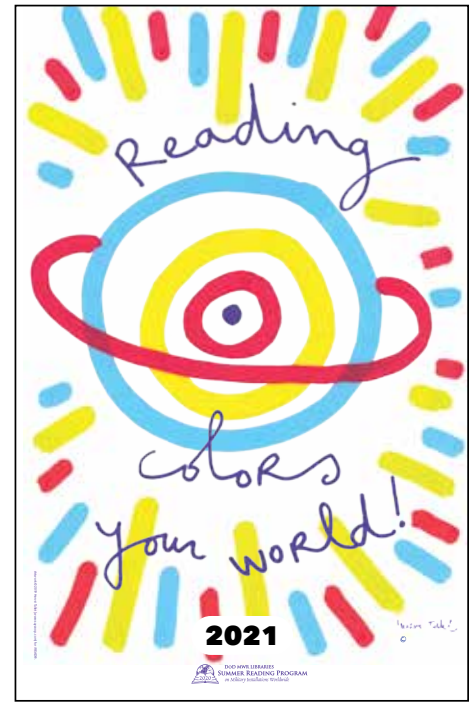
It's Showtime at Your Library!

Movies, theater, dance, music
Featured artist: Kevan Atteberry



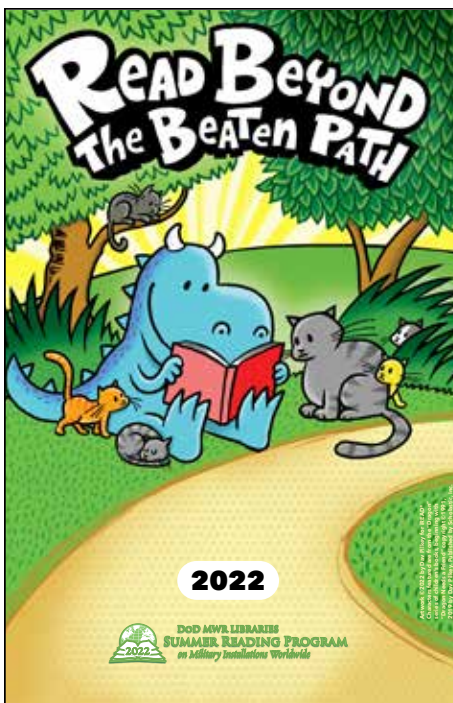
Dig Deeper: Read, Investigate, Discover

*Investigation, discovering hidden
information, exploring mysteries*
Featured artist: Rafael López



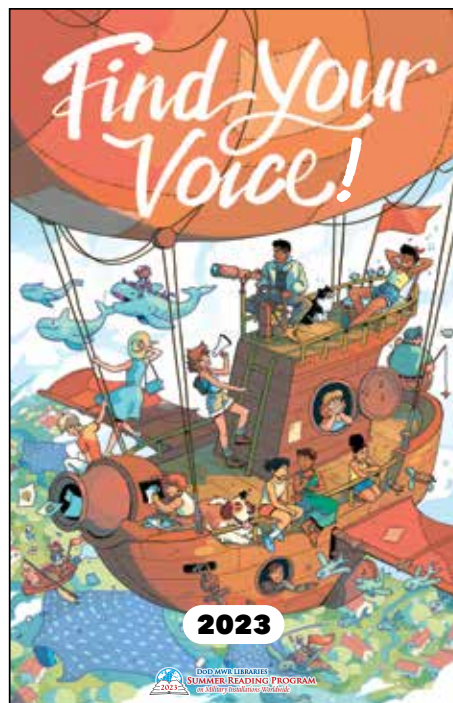
Reading Colors Your World!

*Color science, art, creativity,
kindness, growth, community*
Featured artist: Hervé Tullet



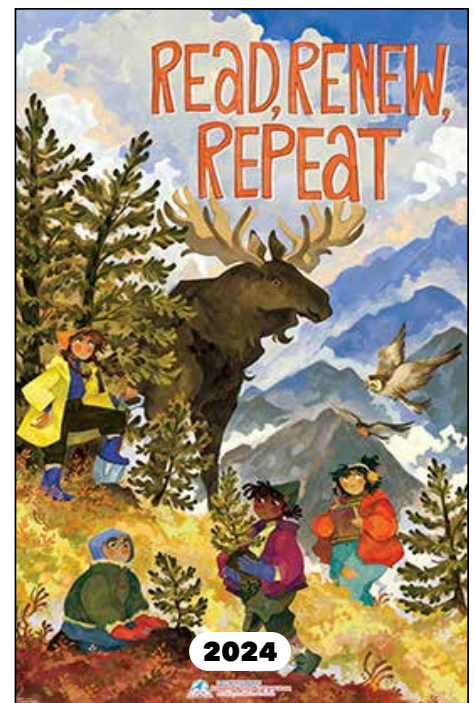
Read Beyond the Beaten Path

Summer camp, nature, outdoor activities
Featured artist: Dav Pilkey



Find Your Voice!

Expression through words, music, art
Teen artist: Hannah Templer



Read, Renew, Repeat

Environmental and personal renewal
Teen artist: Zoe Persico

READ, RENEW, REPEAT



COMING IN 2024!

